



By his Highness the Lord Protectors Council  
for the Affairs of Ireland.



Whereas it hath been by many years experience found, that Jesuits, Seminary Priests, and Persons in Popish Orders in Ireland, do hold it their dutie, and make it their work to seduce the People of this Nation from their due obedience to the Authority, and Government Established. And under colour of instructing the people in the Popish Religion, do stir them up to Sedition and Rebellion, to introduce a Forreign Power and Jurisdiction over this Nation: from whence have proceeded the barbarous and cruell Massacres of the English, and other Protestants living in Ireland, at the out-breaking of the late horrid Rebellion, and the destructive war ensuing thereupon. And whereas (notwithstanding the many Declarations published, requiring the said Popish Priests to depart this Nation, and that Passes have been given divers of them to transport themselves beyond the Sea) the said Priests do nevertheless delay their going, and continue to train up, and misguide the people in their pernicious principles and practices To the end therefore that the said Irish may be no longer deluded, and the said Priests have no further opportunities to prosecute their Traiterous designs against

his Highness and the State, which no ordinary warning, nor other mild course of Justice can probably deter them from (albeit in the prosecution thereof they hazard their lives, and the totall ruine of this poor Nation.)

The said Council do hereby order and declare, that (for the more effectuall discoverie of Popish Priests, Jesuits, and other persons in Popish Orders in Ireland, and of other persons that shall willingly and knowingly receive, relieve, ayd, or countenance any such Jesuits or Priests, and of such persons as shall not discover his or their knowledge of the abode of any such Jesuits or Priests) all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Officers and Ministers of Justice, and all other persons whatsoever, are hereby required and authorized to use all good and lawfull waies and means for the due apprehension of all such Jesuits, Priests, and such other persons whatsoever as abovesaid, receiving, relieving, ayding and assisting such Priests and Jesuits; and shall not discover the same; and to cause such Offenders to be carried before some Justice of the Peace, Mayor, or other head Officer of any Citie, or Town Corporate; And the said Justice of the Peace, Mayor, or other head Officer, (after due examination had thereof upon oath) is to commit such Offenders to some common Gaole, there to remain untill they be delivered by due course of Law, and to return the said Examinations to the Court of Upper Bench, or to the next Assizes, or Gaole-delivery to be holden for that County or Citie where such offences were done and committed; and such Justice and Justices of the Peace, or other persons as abovesaid, before whom such Offenders shall be brought, shall cause one or more of the persons that caused such Offender or Offenders to be apprehended, and brought before them, and such other person and persons as he shall think fit, to be bound over to appear in the Upper Bench, or at the next Assizes or Gaole-delivery for the said County where the said offence was committed; and there to prefer a Bill of Indictment, and to give evidence against such Offenders, and to prosecute the same on his Highness behalfe, according to Law; and the said Justice of the Peace before whom such Offender shall be brought, shall give a Certificate under his hand, and certifying the name of the Priest or Jesuit, or other person receiving, relieving, or not discovering such Priest or Jesuit, and the Prison to which such persons so offending were committed, and the names of the persons so apprehending the said Priests and Offenders; And upon the delivery of such Certificates unto the Receiver Generall of Ireland, or to any Receiver of the Publick Revenue in Ireland, within the Respective Precincts where such Priests or Offenders shall be taken as abovesaid, the said Receiver Generall, or the said



for priest  
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for concealing  
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Receiver of the Publick Revenue shall be authorized, and is hereby authorized and required to pay, or cause to be paid unto the persons so named in the said Certificate to have taken such Jesuit or Priest as abovesaid, the sum of five pounds out of the Publick Revenue; and for every person that received and relieved such Priest, or concealed such Priest, the sum of forty willings: and the said Certificate under the Hand and Seale of the said Justice of the Peace, and the Receipt of the persons named in the said Certificate to have apprehended the Priest, and other the Offenders shall be a sufficient discharge unto the said Receiver Generall, or the said Receiver of the Publick Revenue for making payment thereof. And for the further encouraging of all such persons as shall apprehend such Popish Jesuits or Priests, their receivers, reliebers, and also for the punishment of such as shall not discover and make known the same, as by the Law is required, the Justice and Justices of the Peace of that County, where such Offenders shall be taken, and found as abovesaid, shall issue forth a Precept or Warrant in writing unto the Chief Constables of the Barony, or to the Church-wardens and Constables of every Town, Parish or Chappell, within the Barony, or Baronies, where he shall find such Jesuit or Priest to have made their abode, or to have been relieved, received, harboured, ayded, or assisted, to present the names in writing of all manner of Popish Recusants within the said Barony, or Baronies, where such Priests have been so relieved, received, harboured, or maintained; to the end that due presentment may be had thereof, at the next generall Gaol-Deliberer, or Quarter Sessions to be holden for that County, and those Presentments there to be accepted, entered, and recorded, by the Clerk of the Peace, Town Clerk, or their Deputy, without any fee to be had and taken for the same, to the end that all such Popish Recusants so presented, may be Indicted and Convicted according to due course of Law; that all such Goods and Lands belonging to such Popish Recusants may be Seized to the use of his Highness according to Law: out of which said forfeitures of the Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements of such Popish Recusants, the person or persons so making such Discovery and prosecution as abovesaid, shall have and legally receive the sum of twenty Marks for every Priest and Offender by them apprehended and taken, as is abovesaid. And the residue of the forfeiture of the Goods, Chattels, and Estates of such Popish Recusants shall be disposed off, according as by Law in such cases is appointed.

Provided this Declaration, or any forfeiture therein mentioned, shall not extend to any Popish Recusant, that shall henceforth before any Justice of the Peace declare his willingness to repair to the Publick worship of God, where the English and other Protestants do usually repair unto, and shall thenceforth repair, and resort to such places for the Publick worship and service of Almighty God.

Or to such person or persons as before any Justice of the Peace shall reveale or discover any Popish Priest, or the persons that do, or shall relieve, receive, or harbor such Priests. And all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace of the Respective Cities and Precincts of Ireland, and all Officers, Civil and Military, and all other persons concerned are to take notice hereof.

Dated at Dublin-Castle, the fourteenth day of April 1656.

Thomas Herbert Clerk of the Council.

29. 9. 149

Ordered, That this Declaration be forthwith Printed and Published.

Thomas Herbert Clerk of the Council.

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